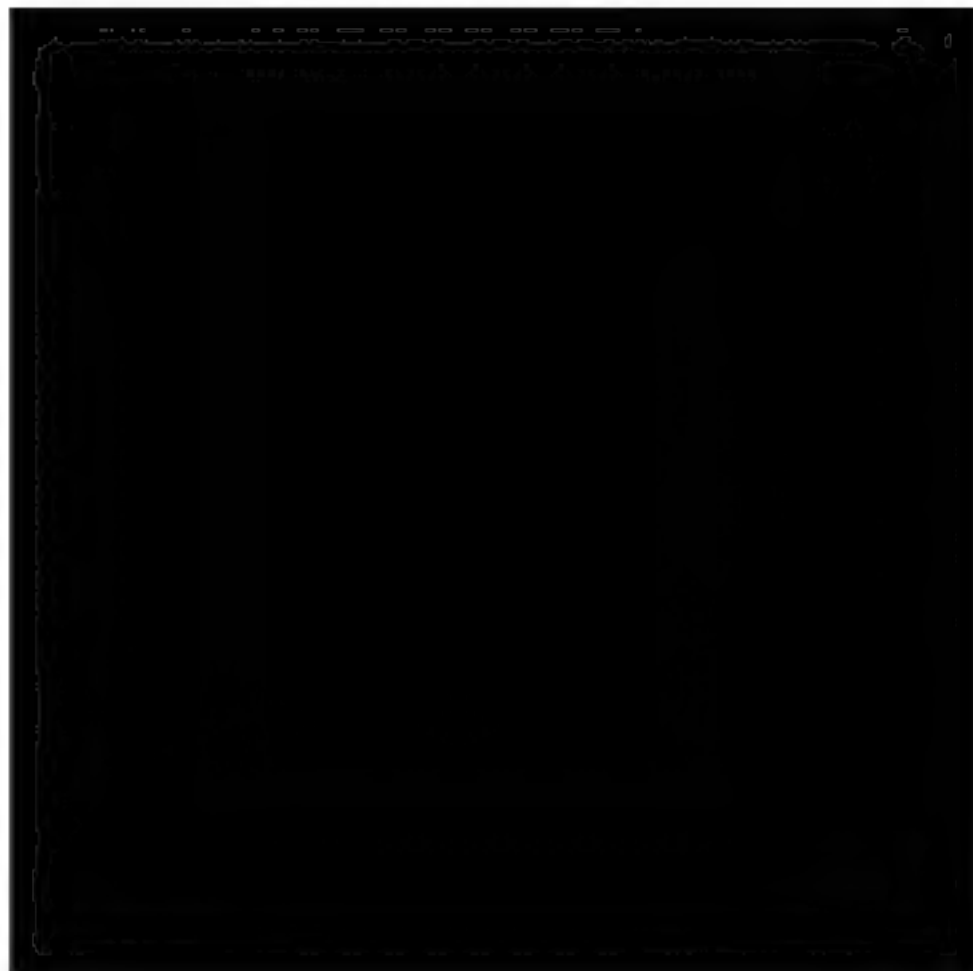
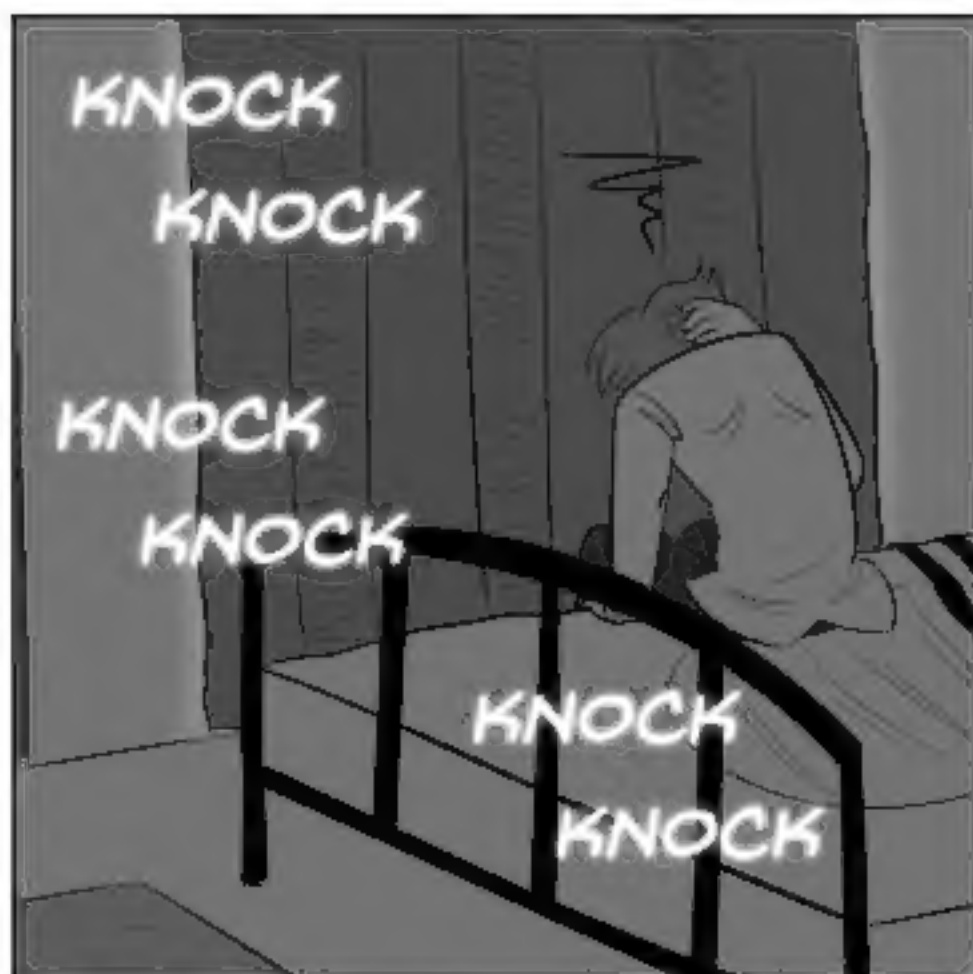




















WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WALK *PAST* THAT CROWD TO GO ANYWHERE...



IT'S BEEN A *LONG* TIME SINCE ANYONE'S SEEN A-...UH...*YOU KNOW.*

OF COURSE.

WE COULD *WAIT* HERE UNTIL THEY'RE GONE-?

NO.

MIGHT AS WELL GET THE GAWKING DONE *NOW.*



OH!

FRANKIE! YOUR NEW GUY LOOKS KIND OF WEIRD! IS HE *SICK?*



A *TYPHOID MARY*, HM?

TYPHOID MARY? *NO WAY.*

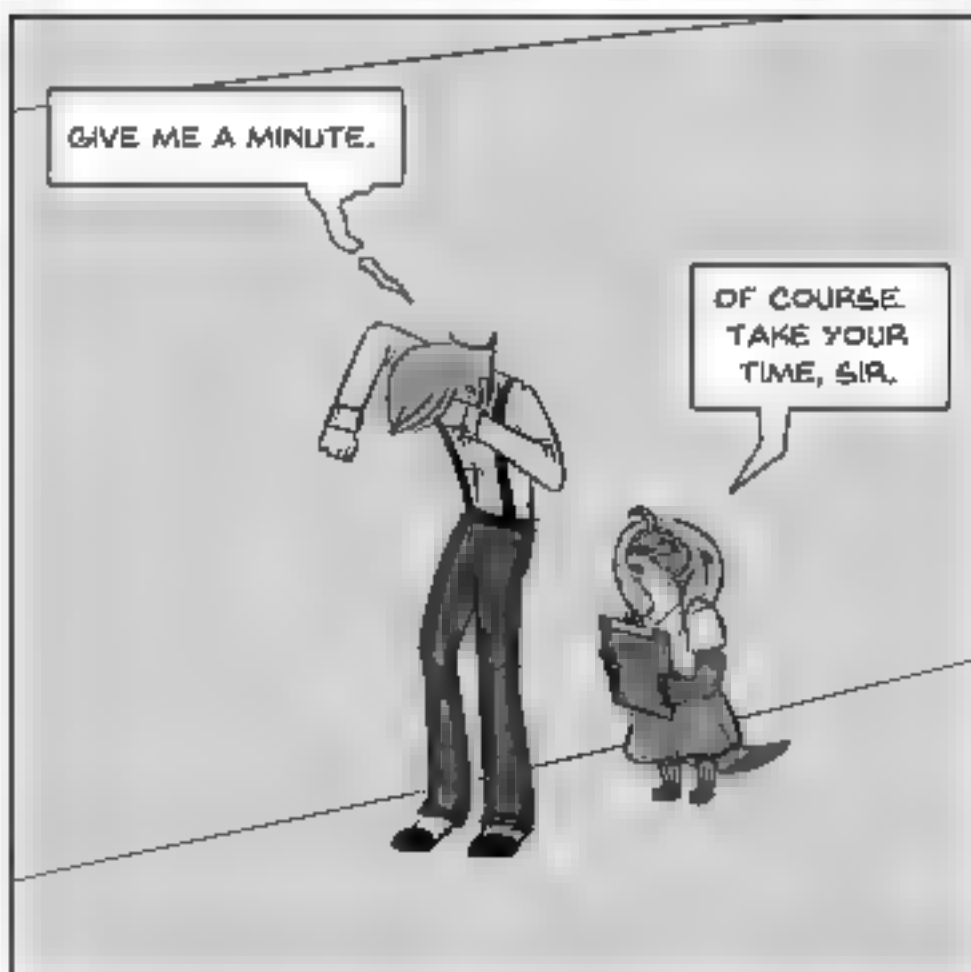
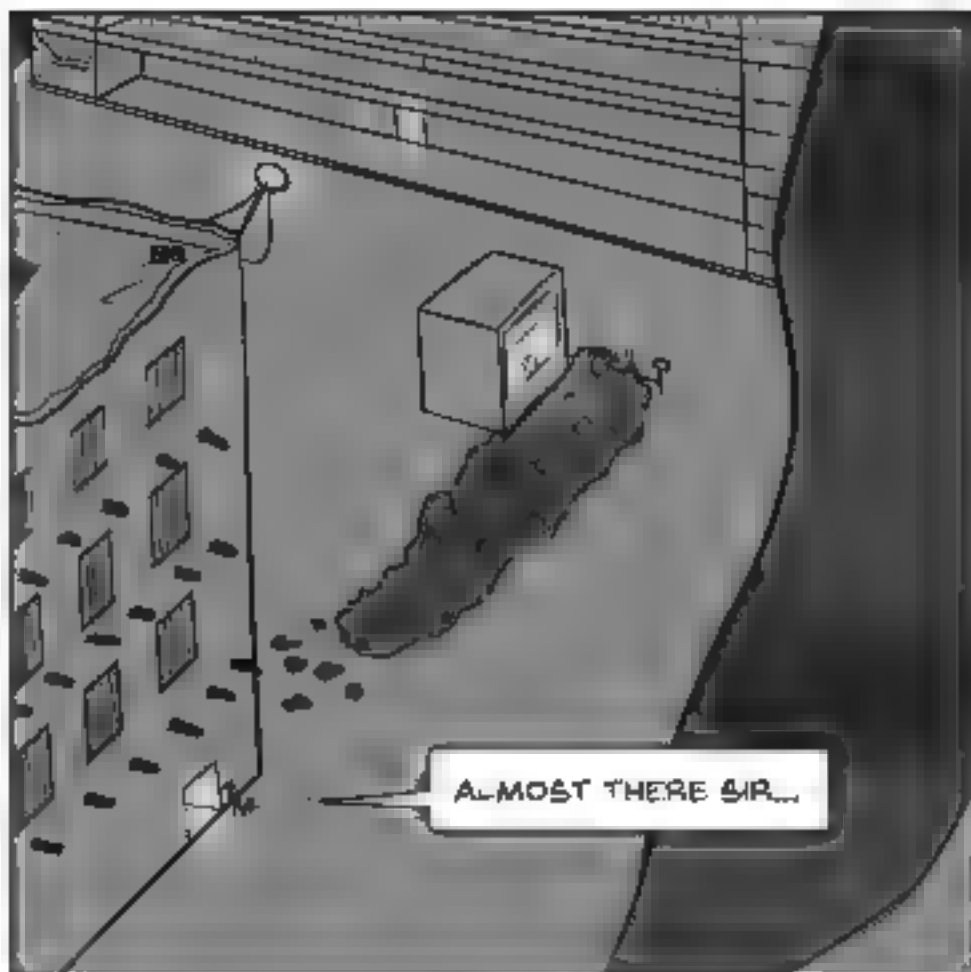
WHAA-? A MARY CAME ALL THE WAY OUT *HERE?!*

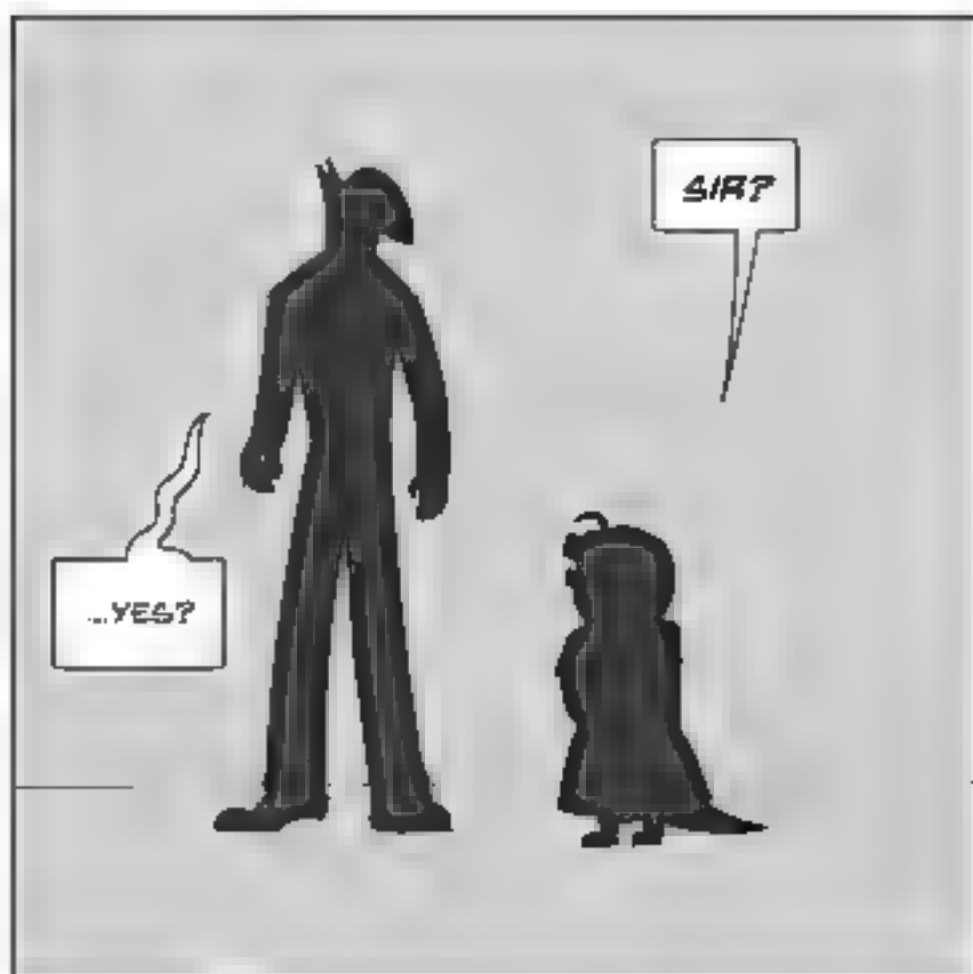
WHOA...!

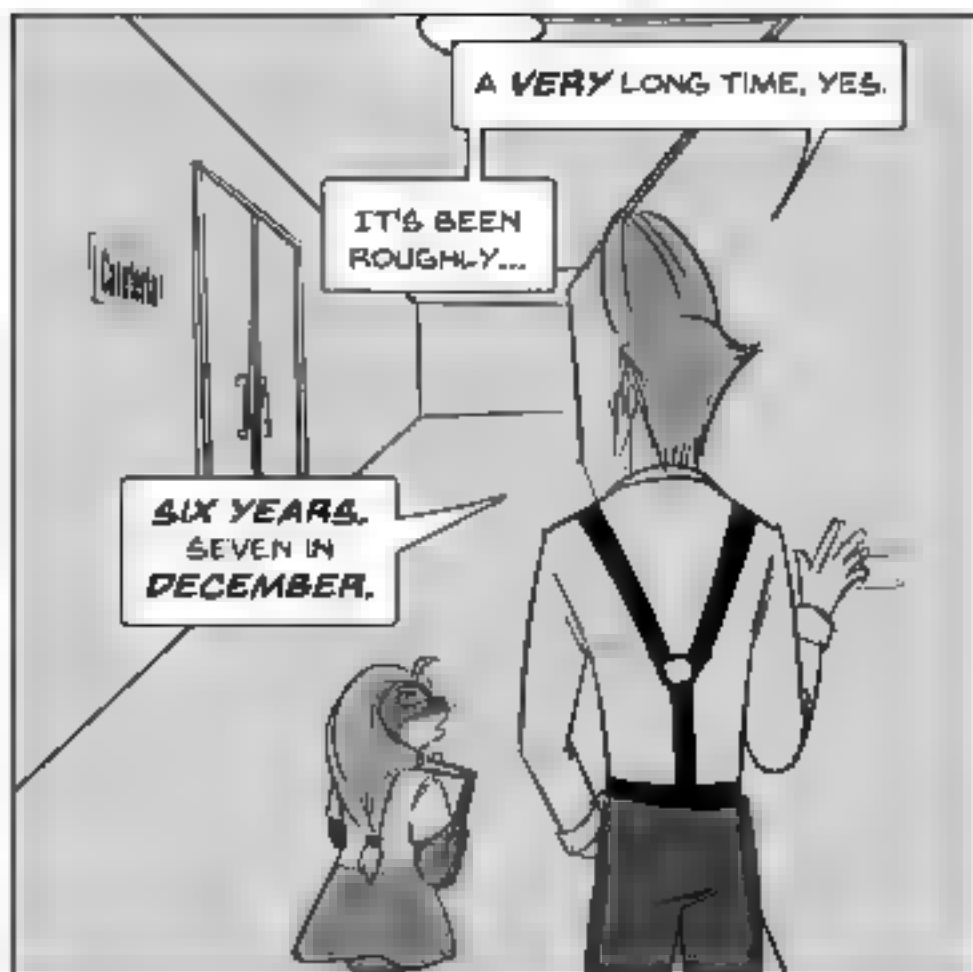




BUT WE **REALLY**
SHOULD BE GOING NOW!!
SEE YOU LATER
MRS. CATTANEO!
SAY HI TO RICHARD
FOR ME!









HEY! DON'T BE CALLING THE BISQUE CANNED!
UNLIKE **SOME** PLACES WE HAVE REAL FOOD!

AND YES THAT
INCLUDES
THE CHEESE TOO!

NOW ARE YOU GOING TO ORDER SOMETHING OR
KEEP BEING RUDE, **MR. FOOTBALL HAIR?**



SORRY HAZEL, HE ARRIVED LAST NIGHT

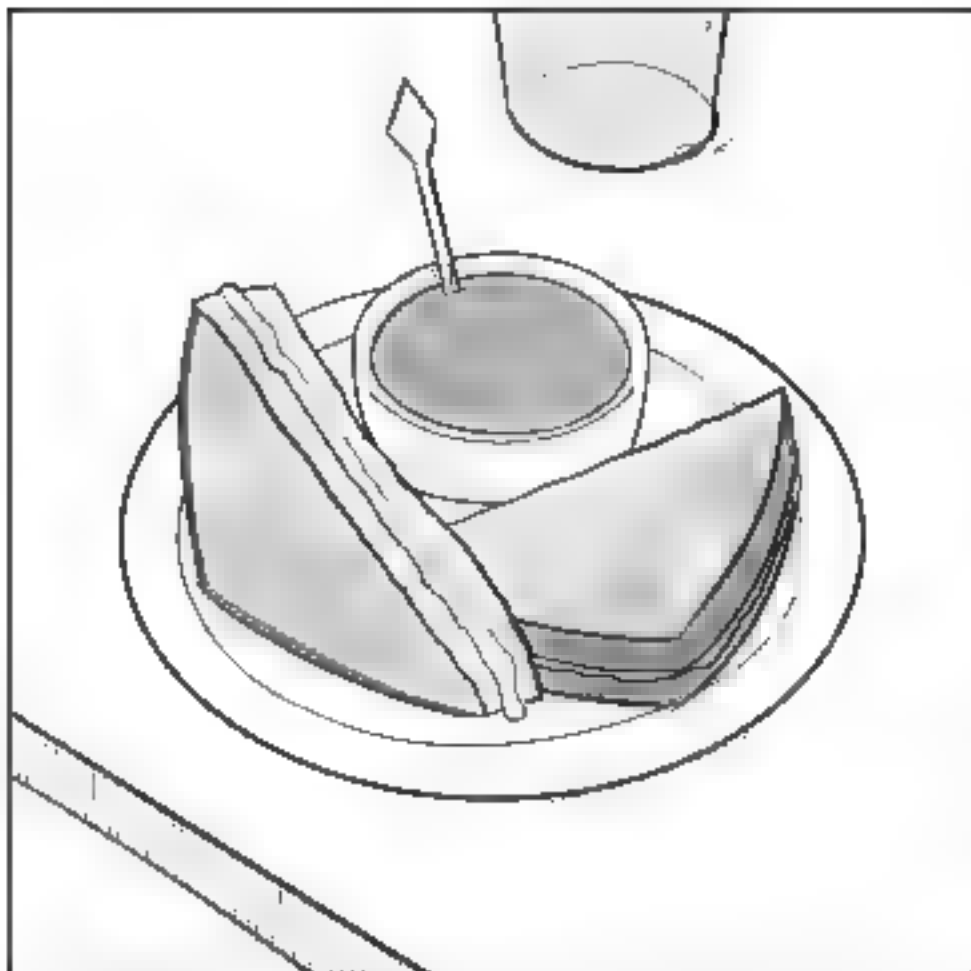


HE HASN'T HAD ANY COOKED FOOD FOR
SIX YEARS EITHER, LET ALONE-

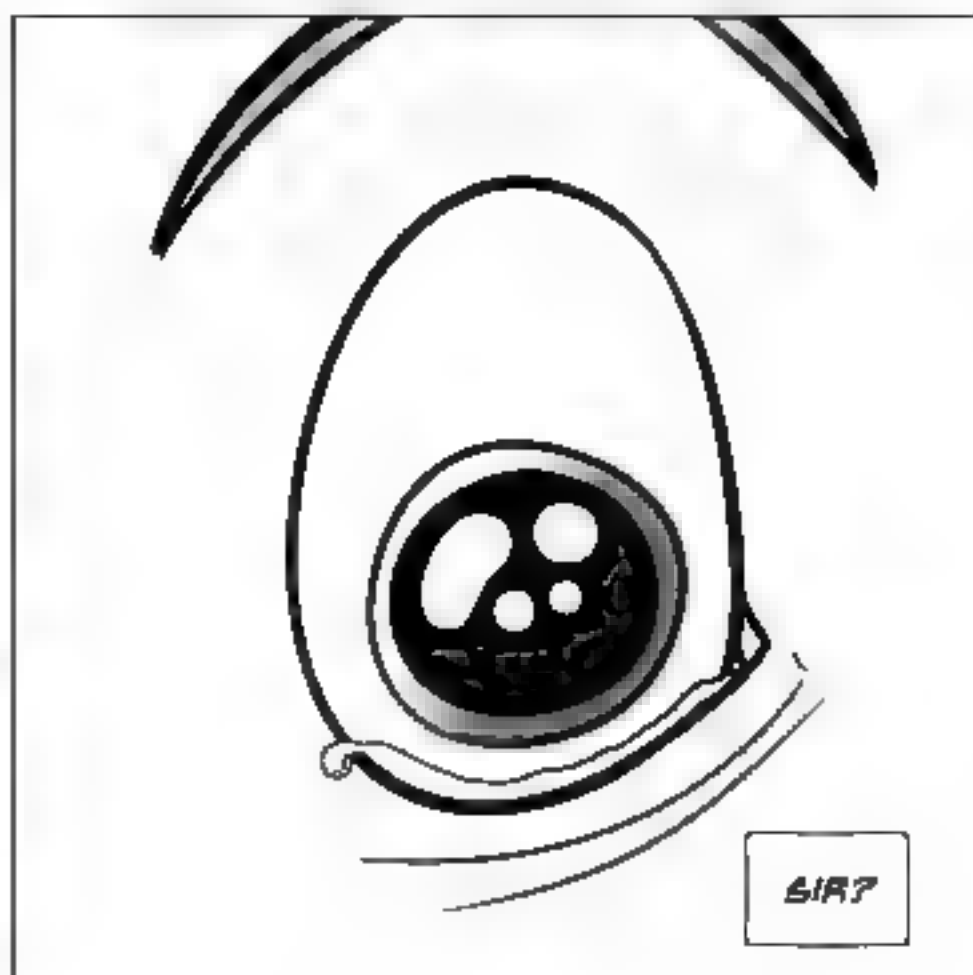
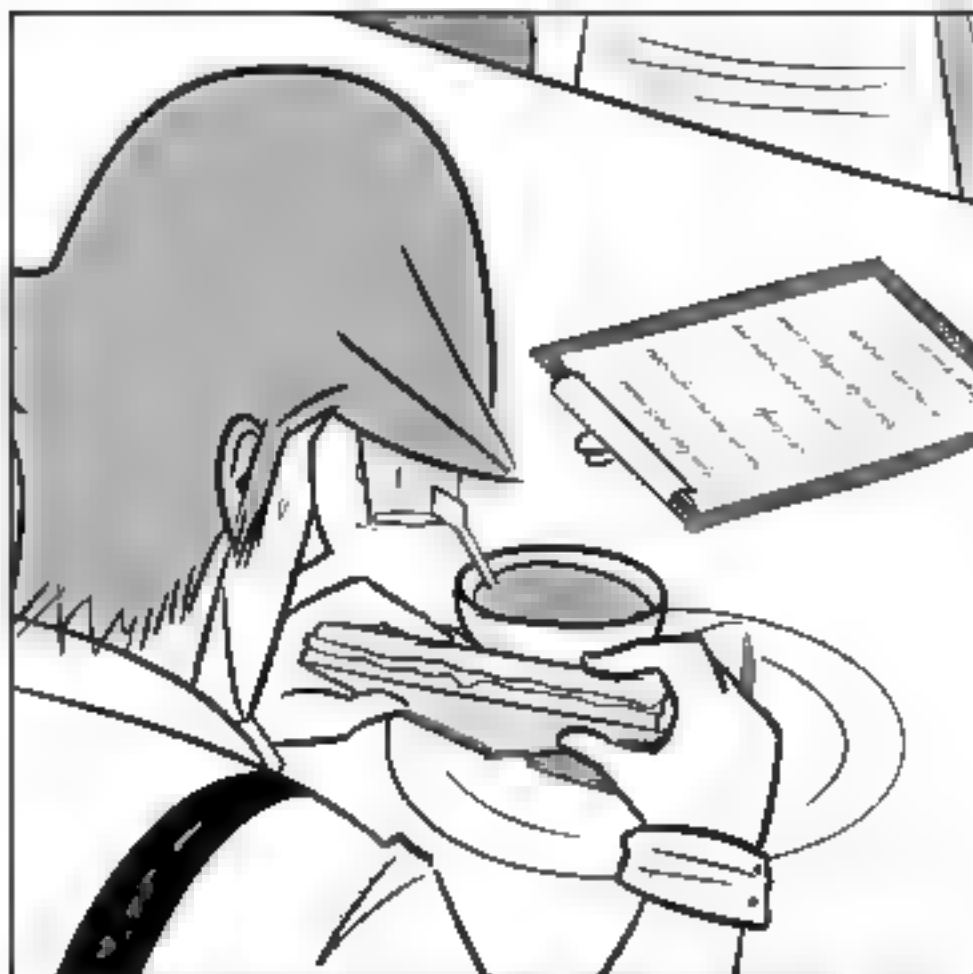
WHAAAAAAT?!



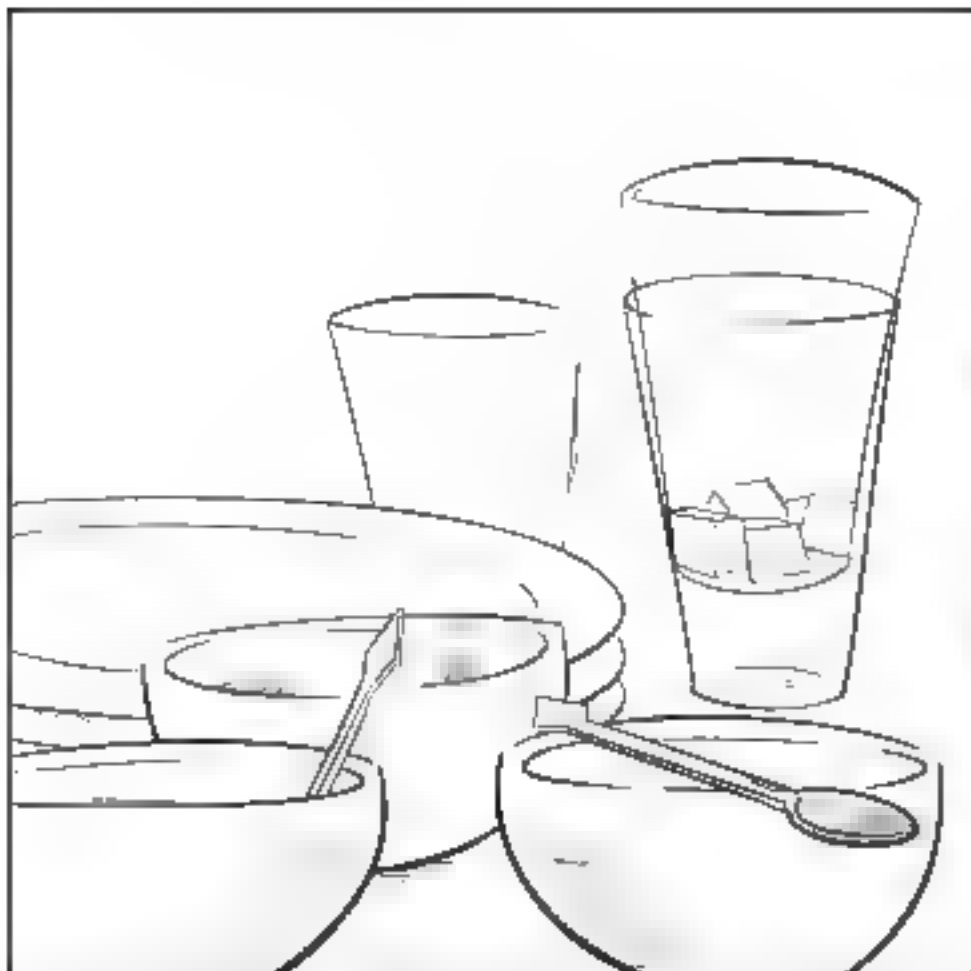
SIX YEARS?! WHAT SORT OF **\$#!!%%&**
COLONY WERE YOU LIVING IN?!

















IF I TOOK IN **DANGEROUS** AMOUNTS OF THAT RADIATION I WOULD BE **DUST** RIGHT NOW.

HELL, **ANYTHING** ON THE SURFACE WOULD BE.

AMBIENT AMESWORTH RADIATION **ISN'T** UNSAFE.



...WHAT?



I'M SORRY, I KNOW YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T LIVE IN A **CONNECTED** COMMUNITY SO THIS IS NEW.



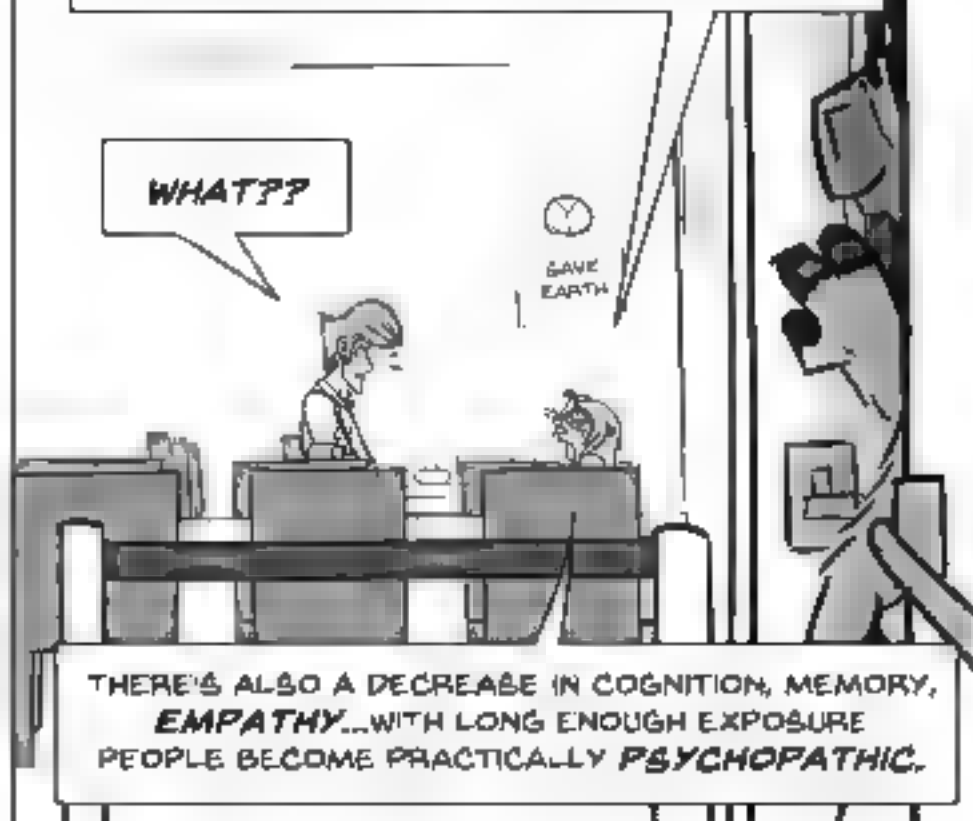
PEOPLE WON'T DISINTEGRATE OVER TIME BECAUSE OF EXPOSURE BUT IT **STILL** AFFECTS THE **BRAIN**.

EVEN LOWGRADE RADIATION UNDER EXTENDED EXPOSURE CAUSES EMOTIONAL INSTABILITY.

WHAT??



THERE'S ALSO A DECREASE IN COGNITION, MEMORY, **EMPATHY**...WITH LONG ENOUGH EXPOSURE PEOPLE BECOME PRACTICALLY **PSYCHOPATHIC**.



RIGHT. AND WHO DISCOVERED THIS TERRIBLE
PHENOMENON? THAT DR. BURBANK FELLOW?



SAVE
EARTH

NO. IT WAS AN ONGOING STUDY IN CSARAD THAT
DR. ALBERT CRACKED WIDE OPEN.

MOST OF THE THINGS WE KNOW HE PUBLISHED
A YEAR **BEFORE** THE BOMBS FELL. HE-

WAIT!

WAIT, WAIT WAIT! **DR. BRYAN ALBERT?**
FROM NETHERLAND? **THAT DR. ALBERT?**

SAVE
EARTH

YES?

HMPH.

WHAT?

I'M JUST **RELIEVED**. FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE HAD SOMETHING **CREDIBLE**.

BUT IT **IS** CREDIBLE!
HE DID **EXTENSIVE**

DR. ALBERT'S "FINDINGS"
WEREN'T **REPLICABLE**.

THE STUDY WAS ULTIMATELY DISPROVEN IN **COURT**.

IN **NEITHERLAND** COURT, AND THAT TRIAL
WAS A **MASSIVE JOKE**!

DR. ALBERT'S FINDINGS WERE STACKED AGAINST
ONLY APEX-FUNDED INTERNAL STUDIES!

OH
PLEASE.

YOU'RE ASKING ME TO BELIEVE **ONE** DISPROVEN
STUDY OVER **AT LEAST SIX** SEPERATE ONES?

MAN,
MAYBE IT'S
JUST **ME...**

BUT I DON'T REALLY TRUST **ANYTHING** THAT
NUTTERLAND OR THOSE TOPSIDER FASCISTS SAID.









FRANKIE, IF HE'S A TOPSIDER WE HAVE TO-

ZIGGY, I'M ONLY GOING TO SAY THIS *ONCE!*

JUST BECAUSE
SOMEONE MAY
BE FROM
NEITHERLAND
DOESN'T MAKE
THEM A
TOPSIDER.

JUST BECAUSE
SOMEONE IS
A TYPHOID
MARY *ALSO*
DOESN'T MAKE
THEM A
TOPSIDER.



FRANKIE I'M NOT
DOING THIS BECAUSE
I'M SOME *BIGOT.*
JEZIS!

LOOK AT THIS
DUDE! LOOK
HOW HE *ACTS!*
THE *STUFF*
HE TALKS
ABOUT!

IF HE'S A
TOPSIDER
WE *GOTTA-I*



WE GOTTA DO *WHAT?* PULL ANOTHER SAMSON
STANTON, ZIGGY? IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?



TAKE A HIKE. I'LL
DECIDE WHAT
MR. CARDIGE
IS FOR
MYSELF.





TOO CLOSE FOR MY BLOOD. FAR TOO CLOSE...

SIGH!

A SHAME I LOST SUCH A DELICIOUS LUNCH FOR IT,
BUT THAT **DAMNABLE** BUFFALO NEARLY-

FOOTBALL-HAIR!

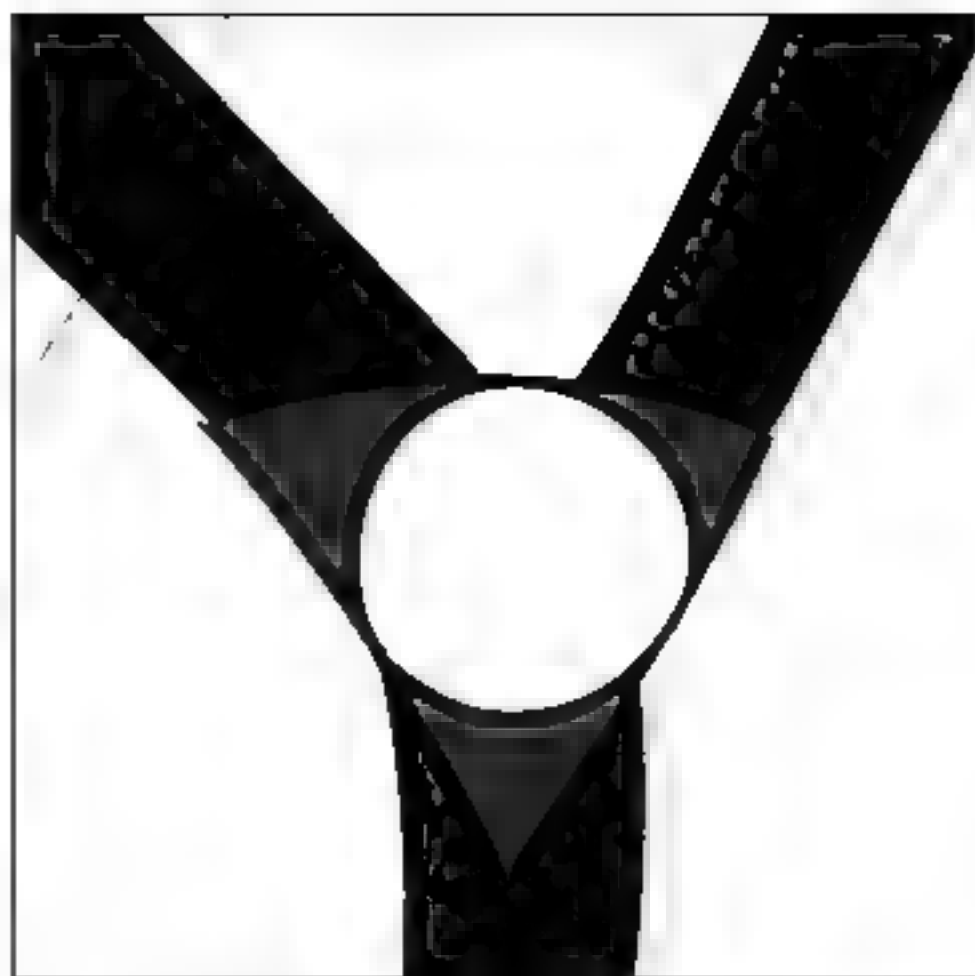
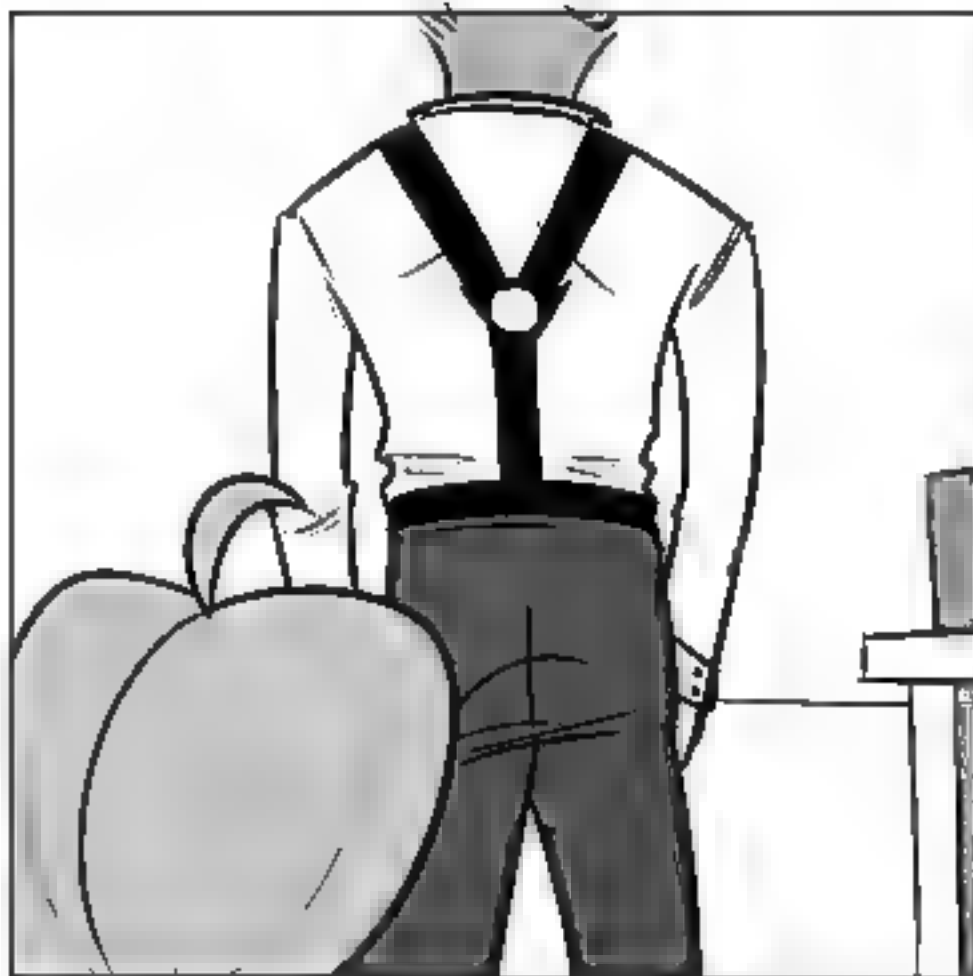
YOU SHOULD GO GET SOME REST, SLEEP OFF
ANY OF THAT LINGERING **NAUSEA** FOR NOW.

YOU CAN TRY EATING AGAIN AT DINNERTIME. I'LL
MAKE SURE YOU GET **SOMETHING** MILD.

JUST DON'T SHOW UP
AFTER TEN. THAT'S
WHEN WE CLOSE UP.

DULY NOTED...







I KEEP GETTING THE RJNAROUND REGARDING
THE **AMENITIES** THIS COLONY HAS.

WHEN I WAS **DRAWGED** IN HERE I WAS TOLD ALL
MY QUESTIONS WOULD BE ANSWERED!

BUT IT'S "OH, YOU'RE A
TYPHOID MARY" AD
NAUSEUM. ASKING
IF I'M A **TOPSIDER**.
ASKING IF I'M
ADDED AND LOSING
MY COMPOSURE
OVER SOME
RADIATION.

SO FAR **I'VE** BEEN THE ONE HAVING TO
ANSWER ALL THESE NEEDLING QUESTIONS.

SO LET'S TRY ONE OF MINE: IT'S QUITE A SIMPLE
ONE THAT I **HOPE** HAS A SIMPLE ANSWER.

WHERE
DOES
THE CHEESE
COME
FROM?

FROM FOOD DEVELOPMENT!

...ILLUMINATING.

WOULD YOU
LIKE TO
SEE FOR
YOURSELF
MR. CARDIGET?

IF IT MEANS I GET A STRAIGHT ANSWER? **SURE**.



I KNOW THE MATTER OF *HOW* THE CHEESE IS
MADE MAKES SOME PEOPLE *NERVOUS*...

I'VE HEARD SOME HORROR STORIES ABOUT HOW
OTHER COLONIES MAKE IT....

BUT WHITMORE MAKES A *SYNTHETIC* VERSION OF
THE...CHEMICAL? I THINK? I DON'T KNOW THE
WHOLE *SCIENCE* OF IT, BUT THEY SHIP IT HERE-

WAIT.

WAIT WAIT
WAIT.

LET'S BACK UP A MOMENT: MILK AND EGGS.
PRODUCED IN *THIS* COLONY. BY *WHAT?*

OHHH....









@#\$%...

ARE THERE ANY
OTHER HIDDEN
HORRORS I
SHOULD KNOW
ABOUT?!



ENDLESSLY RECYCLED WASTE PASTE? SOYLENT
VEGETABLES? MAYBE SOME PACT WITH **SATAN**
HIMSELF FOR SOME **CLEAN WATER**?

HUFF!

HUFFF!

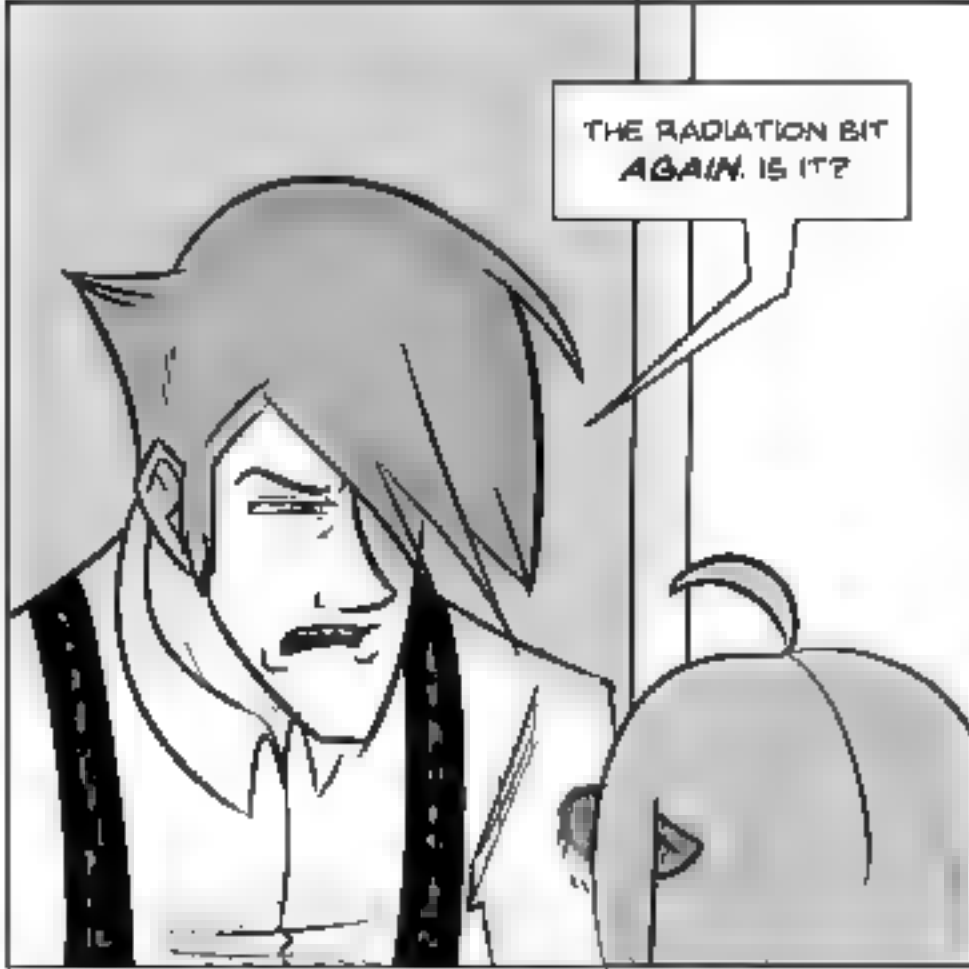


NNNNOTHING
THAT
DRAMATIC. NO.



OUR WATER IS COLLECTED IN UNDERGROUND WELLS
WHICH ARE PUMPED HERE. DR. BURBANK TREATS
THE WATER TO **REDUCE** ITS RADIOACTIVE LEVELS.

THAT TREATED WATER WE USE FOR ALL THE COLONY
NEEDS, **INCLUDING** OUR HYDROPONIC FARM.



THE RADIATION BIT
AGAIN. IS IT?



YES, MR. CARDIGE. I KNOW YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT
AMBIENT AMESWORTH RADIATION IS DANGEROUS.

BUT IT DOES OBJECTIVELY AFFECT PLANT GROWTH.
IT'D BE IMPOSSIBLE TO GROW **ANYTHING**
WITH **UNTREATED** WATER.



YOU WERE WANDERING THE SURFACE, HAVE
YOU SEEN **ANY** PLANTS GROWING IN THE WILD?



WELL...**NO**.

AND HOW LONG HAVE
YOU BEEN WANDERING
TOPSIDE FOR?

EVER SINCE THE WAR...

DON'T YOU FIND
THAT **ODD**?

WELL...I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER SO MUCH
NOW THAT YOU'RE *HERE*...

Food Development

BUT GIVE IT SOME TIME, *UNWIND* FROM ALL THAT
SURFACE LIVING AND THEN THINK ABOUT IT

AND MAYBE THINK ABOUT MORE THAN JUST THAT?

"MORE THAN
THAT"?
SHALL I
CONTEMPLATE
THE MEANING
OF LIFE
TOO?

Develop

DON'T THINK I MISSED WHAT YOU CONFIRMED
FOR ME *EARLIER*, MR. CARDIGE.

Food Development

ABOUT YOU *HATING* BEING A TYPHOID MARY...

I MAY NOT KNOW *EXACTLY* WHAT YOU'VE GONE
THROUGH TO BRING YOU TO HATING WHAT YOU ARE...

BUT I CAN SEE YOU ARE REALLY *HURTING*.
YOU'RE SO *ANGRY*, SO *DEFENSIVE*, AS IF
YOU EXPECT THE WORST FROM *EVERYTHING*.



THE WAR, THE VIRUS, THE **MONSTERS** THAT
ROAM THE SURFACE AND THE YOWLING
MANIACS THAT LIVE **BENEATH** IT



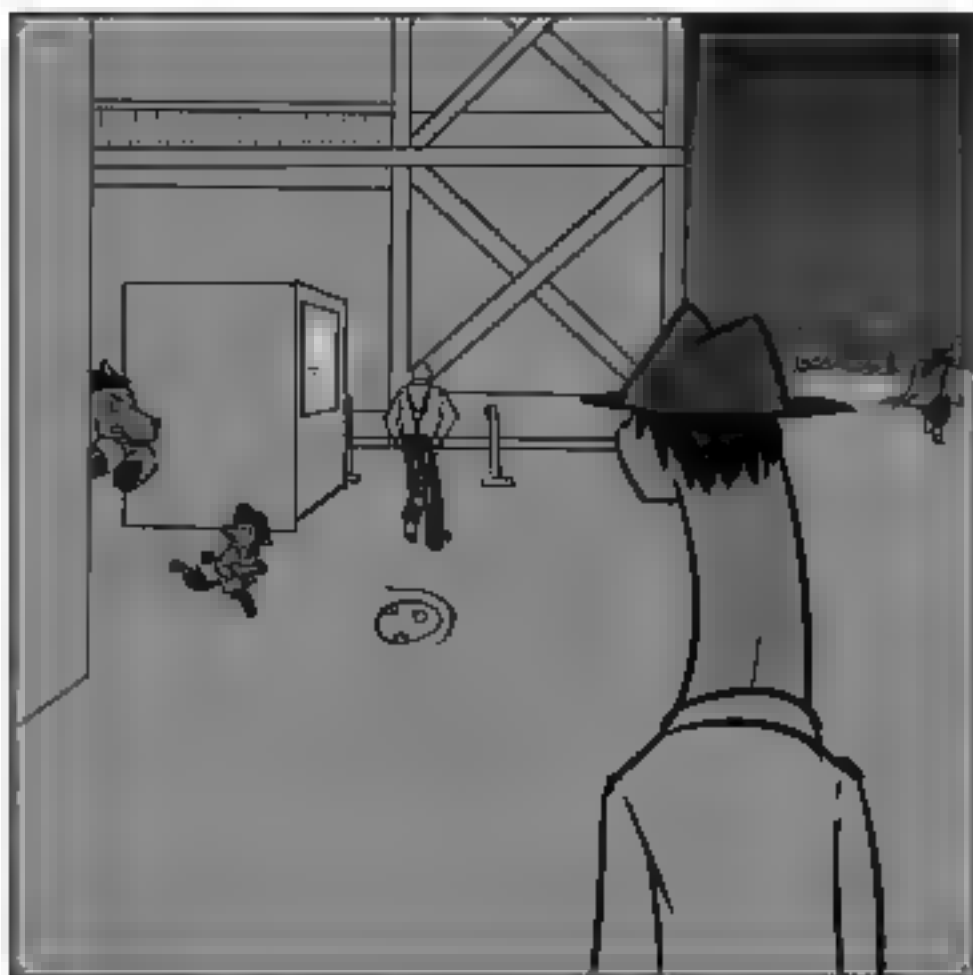
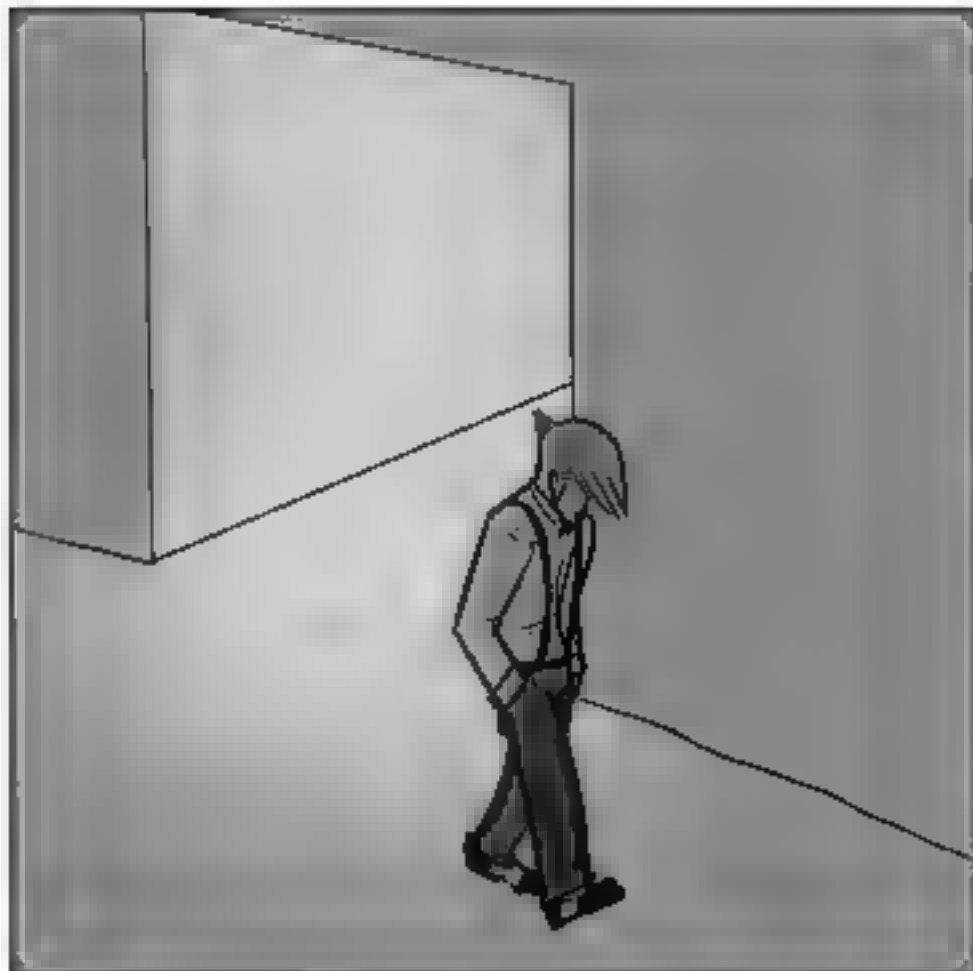
THERE IS LITTLE WATER, THERE IS LITTLE FOOD.
EVERY DAY IS ONLY FUELED BY A **FLICKER** OF HOPE
THAT **SOMEDAY** THE END OF THE WORLD WILL **END**.

YET THE MOST UNTHINKABLE, **IMPOSSIBLE**, THING
CAN HAPPEN AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT AND WHEN IT
DOES THAT HOPE IS **DEAD** AND SO ARE **YOU**.

SO YES, I **DO**
EXPECT THE
WORST.
MS. FISHER.









I DON'T *NEED* THIS RIGHT NOW.

JUST BE QUIET SO I CAN SEND MY REPORT.

SUCKS TO SUCK MARYBOY, I'M NOT SENDING *ANYTHING* RIGHT NOW.

WHY THE
#\$%&
NOT!?

BECAUSE WE'RE IN A CAVE, *DUMBASS*. I DON'T HAVE ANY *SIGNAL* DOWN HERE.



